

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 70, Number 8

September 1, 2020



Co- Presidents' Message



Dear All,

Here we are at the beginning of September. Despite the current high temperatures and humidity, fall is just around the corner. And now we begin the final two-month dash to an important election on November 3. Remember: if you need to update your voter registration or if you want to get an absentee ballot so that you don't have to wait in lines this November, go to <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> and click on whichever task you want to accomplish. You will need your Social Security Number and your driver's license number, but it's all pretty simple and you no longer need a special reason for requesting an absentee ballot. If you do want an absentee ballot, *request it right away*, so that you can get your ballot in time to fill it out and return it well before Election Day; you don't want to go to all that trouble and then lose your vote because you missed a deadline.

We recently celebrated the centennial of passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 — an event that only took 70 years of hard work and dedication! There were many heroines in that long campaign who fought prejudice against women, and some who had to fight prejudice against Black people as well. The suffragists were often jailed when they protested, and they were famously force fed when they went on hunger strikes to protest being treated as criminals and not as political prisoners. Some even died for the cause.

And yet, they persisted — and eventually won!

A hundred years later, much remains to be done. Women still earn less than men in comparable jobs. Women have been elected to many more political offices today than in the past, but their number falls far short of representation comparable to their proportion in our population. And while we in Virginia achieved passage of the resolution ratifying the ERA Amendment, it remains unclear whether this crucial 38th state ratification will be acknowledged and the amendment brought into force.

All of which is to say that your vote matters. As an organization, we are working to encourage maximum participation in this year's election. Mollie Jewell is coordinating a postcard writing campaign to increase voter registration among underrepresented groups.

Meanwhile, Bunny Jarrett is coordinating a joint effort with the League of Women Voters to encourage establishing a nonpartisan process for redistricting in Virginia. Politically and racially-based redistricting has been one way in which political parties have frustrated the intent of the Voting Rights Act, to make every individual's vote count. Too often, districts have been drawn to make each of them a safe seat for one party or the other, making elections all but irrelevant.



So let's continue the struggle together, and achieve our next successes in fewer than 70 years!

Stay safe,
Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel

AAUW Dues

To AAUW Branch Presidents in Virginia

Today, you and your branch members received an email (copied below) from Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair, requesting comments from the membership on a proposal by AAUW to increase the national dues. The deadline for submission of comments to connect@aauw.org is September 25, 2020.

Please remind members of this comment deadline. Often, it has been the branch President that has submitted such a letter on behalf of the board and all branch members. We recommend that you obtain a sense of the views of your branch members for consideration by the branch board. If you or any of your members submit a comment, please copy the AAUW of Virginia at suzanne@suzannerothwell.com as we wish to know how our Virginia members view the AAUW proposal.

For your information, AAUW national dues remained at \$49 from 2008 to 2018, before they were increased to the current rate of \$59.

Thank you. We send you our best wishes for your good health and that of your family at this challenging time.

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Co-Presidents, AAUW of Virginia

Dear Suzanne,

The AAUW Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The Board will consider two different options:

A. An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between \$3 and \$10.

B. An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between \$3 and \$10 each year.

The selection of option A or B and the exact amount of the increase for the option chosen will be determined by the board at its October meeting. Any change to Individual Member dues will impact paid Life Membership as well, since AAUW's bylaws require paid Life Membership to equal 20 years of annual dues. The Board is not considering a change to College/University Member dues at this time. Membership dues cover between 15% and 20% of AAUW's annual budget. While AAUW's expenses increase annually, in recent years dues have not increased with enough regularity to keep pace with expenses. Increasing Individual Member dues will help AAUW cover more expenses, including important functions like the Connect team, critical technology and infrastructure such as the website and Member Services Database, and other member support.

Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board's vote. Thank you.

Best regards,

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
Board Chair

Two Opportunities to Speak Up on Issues and Make a Difference

FIRST: Educate Voters Regarding Virginia's Constitutional Amendment to Improve the Redistricting Process in Virginia by Writing Postcards. Falls Church Area AAUW coordinates with the League of Women Voters of Falls Church. Read more below and contact Bunny Jarrett at mjarrett@gwmail.gwu.edu.

Every ten years, all 50 states redraw their electoral district lines. In Virginia, this responsibility rests with members of the General Assembly. In this November's election, voters have a chance to end partisan gerrymandering by approving a constitutional amendment to create Virginia's first-ever redistricting commission. Both AAUW of Virginia and the League of Women Voters support the adoption of the ballot referendum that, if approved, would amend the Virginia Constitution to establish a Virginia Redistricting Commission. The Redistricting Commission would be made up of eight legislators and eight citizens, with a citizen chair. The Commission would require citizen participation and transparency in the redistricting process. AAUW-FC is collaborating with the LWV of Falls Church to write postcards to educate voters about the proposed Virginia constitutional amendment to improve the redistricting process. If you wish to provide information to voters about this important amendment, please contact Bunny Jarrett and volunteer to write educational postcards. Bunny Jarrett at mjarrett@gwmail.gwu.edu.



SECOND: Educate Voters Regarding Voting, Voter Registration and Re-Registration by Writing Postcards.



AAUW-FC is engaged in Reclaim Our Vote (ROV), a postcard-writing project of the Center for Common Ground of Virginia, a registered non-partisan 501(c)3 organization. Read more below and contact Mollie Jewell at molliejewell2@gmail.com. ROV is a project of The Center for Common Ground of Virginia, which works with national partners, including the NAACP, Black Voters Matter, Mi Familia Vota, VoteRiders and DemLabs. AAUW-FC undertook this project both in memory of Kitty Richardson, an active civil rights supporter and our diversity chair, who passed away this winter, and in support of AAUW's public policy priorities to increase voter turnout and to promote diversity and inclusion. As of August 3, 2020, our branch members and friends and family have colorfully handwritten 1600 postcards, reaching 1600 potential voters. We are continuing this project. Members began writing their second round of postcards in mid-August.

***AAUW's 2020 Gender Policy Agenda recognizes that voting is a Foundational Right and includes an objective to "Expand and Protect the Right to Vote. AAUW stated that elected officials should protect and expand voting rights, automatic voter registration should be established, early and online voting should be promoted, and partisan gerrymandering should be ended by creating non-partisan redistricting procedures.

We've already written 2,700 postcards, and Mollie has raised the goal to 5000! (Members have time for a couple of rounds before October).

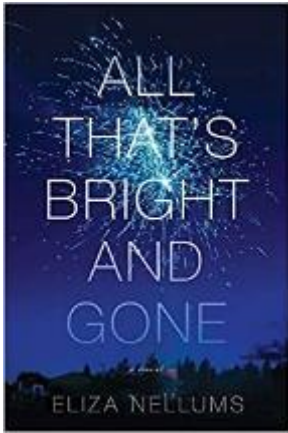
And, as always, friends and family are welcome to help!

More on Postcards!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to write postcards about redistricting reform with the League of Women Voters of Falls Church. I have received some postcards from the LWV coordinator and am waiting for more so I can distribute them to our AAUW members. I also have asked for lists of names and addresses to which we can send postcards. I asked for voters outside the Northern Virginia area because I think other areas of the state will receive less education about the proposed redistricting amendment. I expect to have the postcards and names and address the week of August 31 and will get them to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Bunny Jarrett

Program for September 14



All That's Bright And Gone is a new novel by Elizabeth Nellums (pen name- Eliza Nellums). It is a mystery novel narrated by a six year old girl trying to uncover secrets in her troubled family, and particularly understand what happened to her missing older brother. This is Ms. Nellums' first published book but not her first effort. At our 14 September zoom meeting, you will be able to meet and ask questions to Ms. Nellums about her book. Ms. Nellums graduated from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) and received her MA from University of Michigan. The book is available at Arlington library or on Amazon. Again, the zoom meeting will be at 7:30 pm on 14 September. Zoom details and link will be provided later. Please join us. Happy Reading.

Susan Conklin

OTHER UPCOMING PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

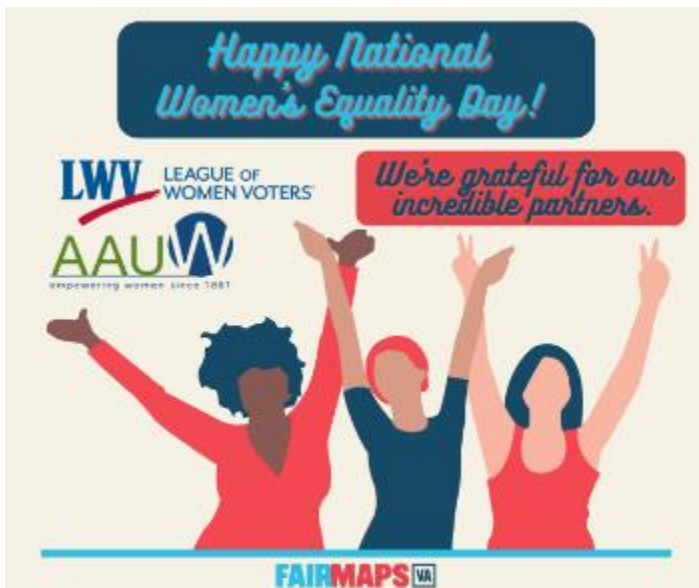
AAUW-FC has determined to collaborate with The League of Women Voters of Falls Church (LWV-FC) regarding certain election initiatives. In addition, below are programs regarding the election and other issues which may be of interest to you.

Conversation with Falls Church City Council Member Letty Hardi: Join us for a Virtual Discussion with Council Member Letty Hardi on current issues facing Falls Church. Learn more about how Falls Church City is working to challenge racism, combat COVID19, and consider more affordable housing options. Bring your questions and discussion topics.

- Date and Time: Sunday, September 13 at 3:00 pm
- Join on Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9889526453>

Virginia State League to hold Fall Workshop on How to Get Out the Vote and Combat Voter Suppression: The Virginia State League will hold a virtual Fall Workshop this year, featuring sessions on How to Get Out the Vote, How to Combat Voter Suppression, Leadership Development and a Deep Dive into League Positions. The night before the Workshop, there will be a virtual reception, with opportunities to talk with members from other Virginia leagues. Register for this event at the link shown below. The cost is \$20.

- Date and Time: Saturday, September 12 at 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-va-fall-workshop-tickets-116100430513>



AAUW Recognized

AAUW Is Recognized in Our Fight for Pay Equity in Article from Associations Now Daily News: Special Issue: 100 Associations That Will Save the World, S. Whitehorne, 8/13/ 2020.

In this article acknowledging the pay gap between men and women, AAUW is recognized by The American Society of Association Executives for its pay equity negotiations workshops, and AAUW's goal to train 10 million women to negotiate fair and equitable salaries and benefits. Kim Churches states: "Men are more likely to negotiate than women 4 to 1. And so, when we empower women

and teach them not just the confidence-building skills, but also the facts and their place in the market, it'll help them continue to thrive."



Did you know that 100 years ago today, the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified? This historic amendment prohibits states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex, and represents a tremendous step forward on the long road to creating a more just, fair and equal United States.

In recognition of the history of August 26th and National #WomensEqualityDay, we want to highlight two nonpartisan partners that have endorsed [Amendment 1](#) and have been supporting democracy, women and girls for over 100 years!

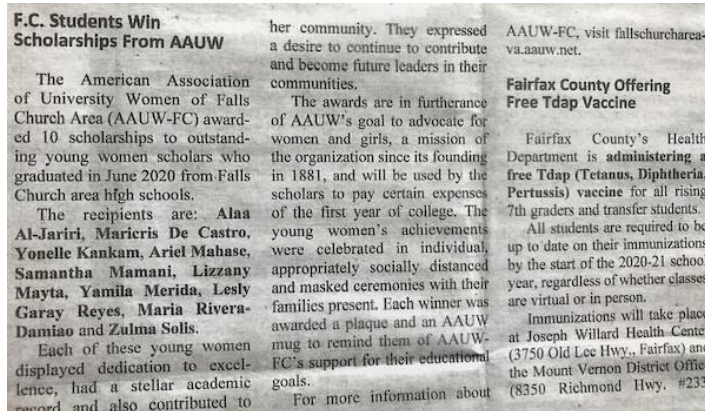
The [League of Women Voters](#) mission is: "Empowering voters. Defending democracy." Securing the passage of Amendment 1 is critical to this mission in Virginia. Deb Wake, President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, [states](#): "Gerrymandering is voter suppression. We have an opportunity to provide a framework for fair redistricting that can serve as a model for other states. The proposed constitutional amendment gives the citizens of Virginia a chance to offer input for the first time in our history."

The [American Association of University Women](#) mission is: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." As stated in their August-September 2020 newsletter, "AAUW of Virginia opposes racial gerrymandering and supports a proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution to create a Commission to draw the electoral maps."

We are proud to have [Amendment 1](#) supported by both of these trailblazing nonpartisan nonprofits working to advance equity and equal participation in democracy. To learn more about the nonpartisan and bipartisan support Amendment 1 has garnered, [click here](#).

Happy National Women's Equality Day!
FairMapsVA

Falls Church AAUW in the Falls Church News Press!



The American Association of University Women of Falls Church Area (AAUW-FC) awarded 10 scholarships to outstanding young women scholars who graduated in June 2020 from Falls Church area high schools.

The recipients are: Alaa Al-Jariri, Maricris De Castro, Yonelle Kankam, Ariel Mahase, Samantha Mamani, Lizzany Mayta, Yamila Merida, Lesly Garay Reyes, Maria Rivera-Damiao and Zulma Solis.

Each of these young women displayed dedication to excellence, had a stellar academic record and also contributed to her community. They expressed a desire to continue to contribute and become future leaders in their communities.

The awards are in furtherance of AAUW's goal to advocate for women and girls, a mission of the organization since its founding in 1881, and will be used by the scholars to pay certain expenses of the first year of college. The young women's achievements were celebrated in individual, appropriately socially distanced and masked ceremonies with their families present. Each winner was awarded a plaque and an AAUW mug to remind them of AAUW-FC's support for their educational goals.

For more information about AAUW-FC, visit fallschurcharea-va.aauw.net.

Public Policy

LWV Wins Election Lawsuit

On August 21, the League of Women Voters of Virginia received a favorable ruling in federal court in its lawsuit which sought to suspend the requirement that a voter casting an absentee ballot have a witness observe and sign the ballot envelope. Due to concerns about the ongoing COVID-19, the LWV-VA had filed the lawsuit to remove a barrier to voting for individuals who might worry about jeopardizing their health in order to locate a witness to sign their ballot.

Mosaic of Suffragist Ida B. Wells



A 1,000-foot mosaic of Ida B. Wells made of non-slip vinyl was displayed on the floor of Union Station the week of August 25. The art installation was commissioned by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The mosaic was created using photographs of 4500 suffragists, along with images of memorabilia from the suffrage movement. Wells, a black woman, was a crusading journalist who used her talents to expose the

inequality and violence experienced by people of color. She was also active in the fight to obtain the vote for women, marching with her fellow Illinois delegates in the 1913 suffrage parade in Washington, D.C., rather than at the back of the procession as many white members of the movement wished her to do. Although the mosaic is no longer at Union Station, the following link will bring you to an article about the mosaic which contains links to the mosaic itself, as well as information about many lesser known women who played important roles in the suffrage movement.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/this-ida-b-wells-mosaic-is-also-a-monument-to-womens-suffrage>

Voting in Virginia

In this year when we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, it is important for all of us to exercise our right to vote. AAUW of Virginia has produced a handy flyer with important dates for the November 3 election and a link to the portion of the Virginia Department of Elections website (elections.virginia.gov) which relates to that specific issue, such as absentee voting. A copy of the flyer follows this article.

The General Assembly passed several pieces of legislation this year that expand access to voting for Virginia voters. These include: no-excuse voting by mail or in person, elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls, and implementing automatic voter registration when an individual accesses service at a Department of Motor Vehicles office or on the website.



There are three ways to vote in November: 1) In person on November 3; 2) Absentee by mail; 3) Early in-person at your local registrar's office starting September 18. If you plan to use option 2 and vote absentee by mail, it is recommended that you apply for your absentee ballot immediately and that you complete it and mail it to or drop it off at your local registrar's office or another place designated by the registrar soon after you receive it. Absentee ballots will be mailed out beginning September 18. A large number of Virginians are expected to vote absentee by mail this year, and with the challenges faced by the U.S. Postal Service, extra time will be needed to make sure your ballot arrives in a timely manner.

Important Dates for the November 3, 2020 Election



Ongoing (See deadline below)	Register to vote
Ongoing	Check and, if necessary, update registration information
Ongoing (see deadline below)	Apply to vote absentee by mail
September 18	Requested absentee ballots begin to be mailed from registrar
September 18	Early in-person voting begins
ASAP (see deadlines below)	Mail or hand deliver completed absentee ballot to registrar
October 13, 5 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (in person or receipt by mail)
October 13, 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (online)
October 23, 5 p.m.	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
October 31, 5 p.m.	Deadline for early in-person voting at your local registrar
November 3	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail
November 3, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Election Day Voting at assigned polling places
November 3, 7 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot delivered in person
November 6, 12 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot mailed to registrar

Movies, anyone?

The selections are as follows:

Hamilton – September 9th at 7:00 PM

Come Walk In My Shoes – October 14th at 7:00 PM

The Old Guard – November 11th at 7:00 PM

Let's Go To The Movies Virtually

What do the following films have in common? Hamilton -The Old Guard-Just Mercy-Cold Sweat-What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael-Come Walk In My Shoes. What would you say? We could say these are films about trailblazers, risk takers, leaders and leadership. We can also say these are films the Falls Church AAUW Branch movie group has watched and discussed or will be watching and discussing in 2020.

Falls Church AAUW Virtual Movie Group was launched in June in response to a desire to still view interesting films, discuss them and stay connected and engaged with each other during Covid 19. Through the internet and ZOOM we have been able to watch the films at our convenience and then get together to have thoughtful conversations on films that educate, inspire and challenge us.



This September the group will be opening with **Hamilton**. A sung and rapped musical it tells the story of American Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton. The film can be watched on Disney+.



In October we will be discussing **Come Walk In My Shoes**, an award winning documentary on the life of John Lewis. It can be watched on <https://vimeo.com/435206616/5ad8eac440>.

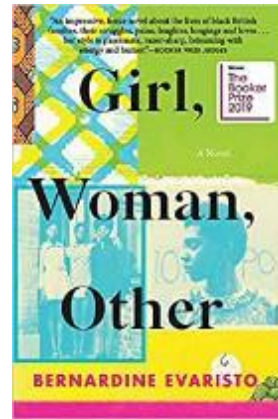
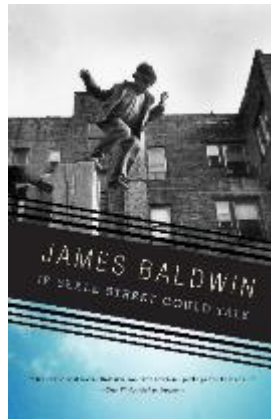
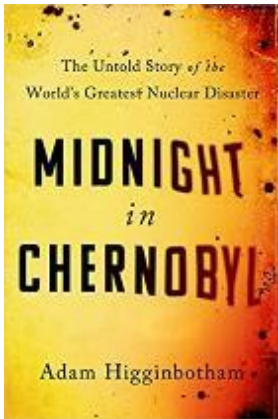


Our fall finale in November will be **The Old Guard**, an American superhero film based on the comic book of the same name. It can be watched through Netflix Streaming.

The Virtual Movie Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.

What do we have in common? Movies. Movies that entertain, enlighten and uplift us.

Book Club News



Here are our fall reading selections voted on by the chapter members:

- Tuesday Sept. 15th: History Selection - *Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster* by **Adam Higginbotham**
- Tuesday October 20th: Classic Selection - *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin
- Tuesday November 17th: Contemporary Fiction by a Foreign Author - *Girl, Woman, Other* by **Bernardine Evaristo**

Polly Rosenstein for FC AAUW Book Group



Max Scherzer Signs Baseball for Women's Education Fundraiser

There is an opportunity to own a baseball signed by Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer with "2019 World Series Champs!" and at the same time support women's and girl's education. With the cancellation of McLean Branch AAUW's Used Book Sale, its annual charitable fundraiser, a substitute fundraiser will feature the Scherzer baseball opportunity along with a request for contributions to support education and local scholarships for

women. In 2019 the proceeds of the book sale enabled the branch to fund scholarships for a woman returning to college at George Mason, Marymount, and Trinity universities and also support women's education through AAUW Funds, a 501(c)(3) entity.

Donors will get on base with a contribution of \$20 or more and also have the opportunity to hit a home run and own the baseball signed by Max Scherzer. In fact, three donors will have the opportunity because Max graciously gave the branch three signed balls. For each \$20 contribution, the person's name will be listed. Multiples of \$20 will enhance the opportunity, and the owners will be selected randomly.

Contributions can be made until August 31 through GoFundMe at

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/aauw-mclean-areas-home-run-fundraiser-for-women-and-education>. Donations may also be sent with full name, address, and phone number to McLean Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) at P.O. Box 1002, McLean, VA 22101.



Sherwood Regional Library

**The Black Experience in Mount Vernon
A Conversation with Queenie Cox**

September 17, 4:00 p.m. ZOOM

REGISTER here: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/6995006>



Once you are registered, the Zoom link will be sent to you via email.

Space is limited. Register early. Please be on time!

Members of AAUW Mount Vernon have been galvanized by the events that occurred in our country after the murder of George Floyd. We want to learn and hear what we need to know in order to be a part of the change that is necessary.

To that end, AAUW Mount Vernon and Sherwood Regional Library, have invited **Queenie Cox** to share what **The Black Experience in Mount Vernon** is like. Queenie Cox was born and raised in Gum Springs, the oldest African American community in Fairfax County. She's a community activist striving to improve the quality of life for Gum Springs residents at the same level as other communities in Mount Vernon.

Queenie will be interviewed by **Joi Jackson**, Information Services Librarian at Sherwood Regional. Topics of discussion will include self-segregation within the community; the impact of gentrification; and separate but not equal access to community resources and political influence.

AAUW empowers women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. This nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 800 college and university partners and 1,000 local branches, 24 of which are in Virginia.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 9	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting
September 14	7:30pm	Falls Church Branch Meeting
September 15	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting
September 17	4:00pm	Mount Vernon Branch Meeting
September 18		Early in-person Voting begins
September 21	7:30pm	Falls Church Branch Board Meeting

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

